

SECTION 1.10 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

In Article 1.10.03--Water Pollution Control: BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Add the following after Best Management Practice Number 14:

15. State listed species of Special Concern spotted turtle (*Clemmys gutata*), is present within the Project limits. Spotted Turtles are semi-aquatic in nature, which means they live both on terrestrial land and water. This species lives in several types of habitats including bogs, swamps, fens, woodland streams, wet pastures and marshes. They sometimes also inhabit brackish streams influenced by tides. These reptiles always live in areas with slow moving water and soft soil. Spotted turtles hibernate in shallow waters, burrows and lodges. This species has been found to hibernate in groups of 5 to 12 individuals. For this reason, the Contractor can perform only upland work during the dormant season for this species, which is November 1 to April 1.

If work must be done during the spotted turtle's active period (April 1 to November 1) the Department will require precautionary measures to protect the spotted turtle and spotted turtle habitat. All construction activities taking place within the turtle's active period will need to be coordinated with the Department.

The Contractor shall through the Engineer at least 10 days prior to the commencement of any construction activities, arrange for a CT DOT Environmental Inspector from the Office of Environmental Planning (OEP) or their authorized delegate to be available to meet and discuss proper protocol for maintaining environmental commitments made to the protection of this species and habitat. OEP will provide oversight through the District to ensure that the following protocols are followed and maintained during the course of the Project:

- a. Exclusionary practices will be required where wetlands are present in order to prevent any spotted turtle access to construction areas. These measures will need to be installed at the limits of disturbance as shown on the plans.
- b. All staging and storage areas, outside of previously paved locations, regardless of the duration of time they will be utilized, must be reviewed by and receive written approval from OEP through the District.
- c. All construction personnel working within the spotted turtle habitat must be apprised of the species description and the possible presence of a listed species.
- d. In areas where silt fence is used for exclusion, it shall be removed as soon as the area is stable to allow for reptile and amphibian passage to resume.

- e. Any spotted turtles encountered within the immediate work area shall be carefully moved to an adjacent area outside of the excluded area and the field inspector must immediately contact OEP with the location.
- f. No heavy machinery or vehicles may be parked in any spotted turtle habitat.
- g. Special precautions must be taken to avoid degradation of wetland habitats including any wet meadows and seasonal pools.
- h. The Contractor must search the work area each morning prior to any work being done.

This species is protected by state laws which prohibit killing, harming, taking, or keeping them in your possession. Workers shall be notified of the existence of spotted turtles in this area and be apprised of the laws protecting them. Photographs and the laws protecting spotted turtles (species ID sheets will be provided by OEP) shall be posted in the Contractor's and DOT field office. Any observations of this species are to be immediately reported to OEP at (860) 594-2937 or (860) 594-2938.